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Embezzlement Case May Go to Jury Today

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The embezzlement trial of two former Defense Department officials in Alexandria Federal District Court was expected to go to the jury today.

The defendants are William H. Godel, who was instrumental in setting up secret research projects in Viet Nam, and John A. Wylie, who headed the Pentagon's budget and finance branch. They are accused of using government funds for their own needs.

Sixteen persons, mostly character witnesses, testified yesterday before the defense rested its case. The government then called eight rebuttal witnesses to end the six days of testimony.

Wylie's attorney, James Fitzgerald, introduced a medical report stating that Wylie was discovered last year to have evidence of an "organic cerebral deficit" despite a "superior level of intelligence." He also suffered from hypertension, the physicians said.

The examination, according to the report, indicated severe depression and an "anxiety neurosis as a result of tension associated with work."

In rebuttal to the medical testimony, Plato Cacheris, assistant U.S. attorney, introduced a psychiatry report on examinations of Wylie at St. Elizabeths Hospital in March.

The psychiatrists said that Wylie was "without mental disorder."

Earlier, a succession of character witnesses praised Godel,

43, as a superior government worker who successfully carried out his Vietnamese assignments.

Godel, who was a GS-18 with a \$20,000 annual salary, was described as "one of the most dedicated people in the civil service" and a man whose reputation "was tops for integrity and devotion to the U.S."

Wylie was described as "an outstanding administrator" who carried out his job although he was "very much overworked." One former associate commented: "He's obviously a man much older than his age."

Godel testified during the trial. Wylie did not.

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